



WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Registered Charity No. 1212600

President: Prof. K. Ray

FIELD MEETINGS 2026

Field meeting numbers, dates and locations are as follows.

1.	Friday 29 May	Hampton Bishop, led by Moira Jenkins, Will Watson and Jane Adams
2.	Saturday 13 June	Highwood near Yarpole/Bircher, led by the President, Prof. Keith Ray
3.	Wednesday 22 July	Arthur's Stone excavations, led by the President, Prof. Keith Ray
4.	Thursday 6 August	Orleton Manor, led by Christian Montez and Duncan James
5.	Saturday 15 August	Craig-y-Nos National Park Geotrail and 'Wealth of Water' landscape, led by Alan Bowring
6.	Tuesday 8 September	Geology of Wenlock Edge, led by Andrew Sims
7.	Wednesday 11 November	Fungus Foray with Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group, led by an expert in fungi

CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

Please arrange your own transport, but please let the Field Secretary know if you need a lift or help in this respect. Car sharing will be needed when the number of cars has to be restricted; if you offer lifts to others, please ensure that your insurance covers you for this. Any entrance and parking fees will be covered by participants on the day and are not included in the cost of the trip. Please bring refreshments, and please wear suitable footwear and clothing for the day, including walking poles / sticks and emergency rations / medicine wherever appropriate.

Field trips will go ahead with at least 8 people. The maximum is 30 unless otherwise stated. Any cancellation, change, or notification that a trip is full will be made via the Club's website and/or news email. The Club holds BALH public liability insurance that covers field meetings - the policy fact sheet can be viewed via a link at <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings>. Please note that no personal accident cover is included for people aged under 16 or over 80 and that you accept any risk arising.

TO BOOK

A booking form has been sent digitally via the Club's news email (at the same time as this guide to field meetings) and in hard copy with the spring newsletter if you've expressed that preference. You can also download the form from the Club website at <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings>.

Booking with payment by online banking

Please complete the relevant section(s) of the booking form for every trip you wish to book and attach the document to an email, sent to Sue Olver, Field Secretary, at geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk

To pay by online banking, please send a single payment for all the trips you have booked on the form to the following account. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT TO THE ONE USED LAST YEAR.**

Account name: Woolhope Nat Field Club
Sort Code: 53-50-41
Account No: 6268 6283

Please use as the reference your surname (abbreviated to the first 4 letters if essential for space reasons) and the numbers of the field trips you have booked as the reference (e.g., Jones 1 4, showing that Jones has booked trips 1 and 4). You can of course send an individual form and payment for a single trip.

Booking with payment by cheque

Please complete the relevant section(s) of the booking form for every trip you wish to book and send the document to Mrs Susan M. Olver, Buttridge, Wellington Lane, Canon Pyon, Hereford, HR4 8NL. Please enclose a cheque covering all the trips you have booked, payable to Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club. You can of course send an individual form and payment for a single trip.

FIELD MEETING No.1

FRIDAY 29 May 2026

HAMPTON BISHOP

A 5-mile circular walk, exploring geology and landscape with Moira Jenkins, ecology with Will Watson, and navigation of the River Wye and River Lugg with Jane Adams.

We will walk down the River Lugg to its confluence with the River Wye, around the large meander loop of the river, see the effect of erosion and deposition during the Ice Age and at the present day, and how the underlying rock structure is reflected in the landscape. We will see the site of a former ford and also the Red Bank Cliff. The flat land between the Wye and the Lugg is protected by a flood

surviving as readily visible earthworks; some associated early field-system lynchets; a well-preserved but 'hidden' medieval/early post-medieval rabbit warren ('pillow mound'); two contrasting stone quarrying areas; and ornamental landscaping, including evidence for former carriage-rides and prospect paths, and carefully configured ponds and associated dams. There will also be discussion about the informal occupation of the Common margins with minor farmsteads, from post-1400 to the early 20th century, of which some evidence survives.

The whole visit will be within freely accessible areas ('Right to Roam' legislation applies) in the overall ownership of the National Trust (and, on Bircher Common, also the local commoners' association). The walk itself is relatively short – taking perhaps 90 minutes depending on the speed of the walkers – but, including time for discussion of wide-ranging content, this will be a full afternoon meeting.

Arrangements

Meet by 12.30 pm latest in the Community Meadow Car Park at Yarpole (What 3 Words: /// judges.grub.suddenly) to share cars since there is very limited parking space at Highwood. You will find the Community Meadow and car park on the left, a short distance down a lane that leads south from Green Lane, near St Leonards Church. If you arrive earlier, you can purchase refreshments at the Gallery Cafe in the church (Green Lane, Yarpole, HR6 0BB) - the cafe closes at 12.30 pm on Saturdays and is a 3-minute walk from the car park. Once car sharing is organised, we will meet with Prof. Keith Ray and leave for Highwood.

COST Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK: Please book and make your payment as indicated above by Saturday 6 June.

FIELD MEETINGS No. 3.1 and 3.2

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026

EXCAVATIONS AT ARTHUR'S STONE.

Professor Keith Ray will lead this visit to the archaeological campaign of 2026 at and around the well-known Neolithic chambered tomb. This summer's programme continues investigations which began in 2022 and have been reported every year in the Club's *Transactions*.

Field meetings here are particularly popular since they offer the opportunity to view leading-edge archaeology that sheds new light on Neolithic Herefordshire and is of national significance. To accommodate the likely numbers, two sessions will thus take place. Please book for either Meeting 3.1 or Meeting 3.2.

Arrangements

Meeting 3.1: Assemble at site at **10.00 am for a start at 10.30 am OR**

Meeting 3.2: Assemble at site at **2.00 pm for a start at 2.30 pm**

The maximum number of people is 30 per session, so 60 altogether. Every effort will be made so that you can come at your preferred time, but it may be necessary to ask some people to change session depending on numbers.

The site location can be found by Sat Nav at HR3 6AX. Please park in the adjacent field reserved for this purpose and not in the lane. **Please share cars if possible as the road is narrow and has farm traffic.**

Directions:

From Hereford, take the A438, turn left towards Bredwardine and Brobury House Gardens and cross the River Wye at Bredwardine Bridge. At the crossroads opposite the Red Lion Inn turn left, onto the B4352, and soon turn right, signposted to Dorstone. Take this road and turn right near the top of the hill onto a minor road, signposted to Arthur's Stone.

Please bring refreshments and suitable footwear/clothing.

COST Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK Please book and make your payment as indicated above by Wednesday 15 July.

FIELD MEETING No. 4

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026

ORELTON MANOR

This afternoon visit to Orleton Manor, Grade II* listed and formerly the manorial seat of the parish, will afford members an opportunity of hearing something of its chequered and curious history, from the days of the Norman Conquest to modern times.

This remarkable house, dating in its present form from the 16th century, is now undergoing extensive repair, the works being carried out with notable skill and care, and offering a rare occasion to observe the best traditions of craftsmanship, applied to ancient fabric. The party will also visit two other historic-framed houses within the village, each of which adds something to the architectural interest of Orleton and to the character of the day's excursion.

As the Manor is at present a building site, members must bring suitable footwear and be aware of very uneven ground and some trip hazards.

Arrangements

Christian Montez and Duncan James will meet members at the Orleton Village Hall, Millbrook Way, Orleton, SY8 4HW at 1.30pm for 2.00pm. A few cars will then take members nearer to Orleton Manor, as the roads/lanes are narrow.

Directions:

From Hereford, take the A49 to Leominster, then the B4341 towards Luston/Ludlow and, at The Maidenhead crossroads, turn right. The destination will be on your left.

Other Information:

Orleton has two pubs: The Maidenhead, on the corner of Green Lane; and The Boot Inn, on Kitchen Hill Road. There are toilets at Orleton Village Hall.

COST: Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK: Please book and make your payment as indicated by Thursday 30 July.

FIELD MEETING No. 5

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2026

CRAIG-Y-NOS COUNTRY PARK GEOTRAIL

Alan Bowring will introduce members to the 'Wealth of Water' landscape in the Upper Tawe Valley. The 2.5-mile circular walk will take in geological, geomorphological, and cultural interest found in this part of the Brecon Beacons National Park, as well as deciduous woodland, with bryophytes and wild flowers.

The walk ascends about 200 ft. in height from Craig-y-Nos up the west side of Cwm Tawe to Callwen and then down the east side, to join a path that passes by the 'Far Lake' and returns back to the car park and Caffi Dwy Afon, where there is the option for refreshments (not included in the cost of the meeting).

Arrangements

Meet at 10.30 for 11.00 am at Craig-y-nos Country Park, where there is a pay and display parking area, cafe and toilets. Bring a picnic lunch and refreshments, suitable clothing, walking poles and boots, binoculars and notebooks. We should end our trip at approximately 5.00 pm.

Directions:

From Hereford, take the A438 towards Brecon, join the A40, turn off the A40 at Sennybridge to take the A4067 towards Swansea. You will reach Craig y Nos Country Park about 10.6 miles from Sennybridge.

COST

Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK Please book and make your payment as indicated above by Saturday 8 August.

FIELD MEETING No. 6**TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2026****GEOLOGY OF WENLOCK EDGE**

A field meeting at Wenlock Edge, a National Trust owned and managed part of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, led by Andrew Sims. This will be a full day excursion to investigate different sedimentary facies in the Much Wenlock Limestone Formation, a limestone of Silurian age formed in a tropical, shelfal setting.

Several stops will be made along Wenlock Edge to visit a series of disused limestone quarries. Some of the quarries are easily accessible by made paths, while some require walking over hummocky calcareous grassland or via paths through woods. All the quarries are within the Wenlock Edge SSSI, so no hammering is permitted. We will also be able to visit a lime kiln near one of the quarries.

Arrangements

Car parking at Wenlock Edge is limited. Share cars, where possible, by meeting at Merton Meadow Car Park in Hereford at 08.30hrs to travel in as few cars as practical. The drive to Much Wenlock takes about 75 minutes, and a comfort stop may be worthwhile as there are no facilities along Wenlock Edge. Aim to meet at the National Trust Presthope car park at 10:00hrs (TF13 6DQ. What 3 Words: /// ferrets.fluid.sway, signposted off the B4371). There will be a break for picnic lunch or to visit a cafe in Much Wenlock at around 12:30hrs. There is a public WC and paid parking at St Marys Lane Much Wenlock Shropshire TF13 6HD. The afternoon will end around 15:30hrs, depending on weather and enthusiasm!

Please wear or bring suitable clothing for the weather on the day, plus refreshments and liquids to keep you going. Stout walking boots are necessary and poles may be useful. If you wish to approach quarry faces, then you will require a hard hat. Some will be provided, but maybe not enough for everyone. Binoculars, hand lenses, and notebooks worthwhile, but not required!

Maximum 20 people for this field meeting**COST**

Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK Please book and make your payment as indicated above by Tuesday 1 September

FIELD MEETING No. 7

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026

Haugh Wood Foray with Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

We're delighted to be joining the Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group for this activity, a fine opportunity to explore this aspect of botany with knowledgeable people and a reminder of the remarkable forays which gave the Woolhope Club of the 19th century a prominent position in the developing science of mycology.

Arrangements

Meet at 10.15am for 10.30am at Haugh Wood car park – a 24 hour free car park situated between Mordiford and Woolhope off the B4224. Once all are gathered the foray will begin with an introduction from our foray leader.

Dogs preferably to be kept on leads. Please bring a small container / basket, and suitable clothes, footwear, and gloves. Be prepared for all weather conditions and bring refreshments. At the end of the foray, the party will gather back at the car park at 12.00 to discuss the fungi. There are no facilities nearby.

Maximum 15 people for this field meeting

COST: None. At the end of the meeting, please consider making a donation (via the foray leader) to the Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

TO BOOK. Please send your booking to the Field Secretary (geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk) by Wednesday 4 November. For this foray, an email will suffice.